GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:312
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
LABS FOR TESTING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
RADHA MOHAN SINGH;YOGI ADITYANATH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of modern labs/centres for testing genetically modified foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to establish genetic screening centres for modified food with active participation of regional food laboratories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 312 FOR 12.3.2003

The Department of Biotechnology is currently engaged in developing protocols using PCR and ELISA methods for identification of transgenic traits such as nucleic acids and proteins respectively in Genetically Modified Foods and products derived therefrom through research and development endeavours at five institutions in the country. These are National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics Hyderabad, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi and Industrial Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also strengthening NIN, Hyderabad, for establishment of a national facility for evaluation of safety of genetically modified foods. The proposal has been included in the Capacity Building Project for strengthening of Food labs in the country.